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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Tuesday 19th May 2020
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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Section 144 clamped in city limits till May 31

- Assembly of more than 5 persons in one place banned
- Only medical shops, hospitals to open on Sundays

Mysuru, May 19 (BCT)- Mysuru City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta has imposed Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code and with the powers vested with him under Karnataka Police Act Column 31 preventing the assembly of more than five persons in a particular place till May 31 midnight. This rule is applicable to all persons and places except where essential services are provided.

The provisions under Section 144 have been imposed in view of fresh guidelines issued by the State Government yesterday which has specifically directed Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police and City Police Commissioners to ensure order and guidelines are followed in their respective jurisdictions.

In a media notification released yesterday, the city top cop has said that this order is applicable in Mysuru City Police Commissionerate to all social gatherings, political meets, sports and entertainment, education and religious meetings.

Mysuru City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta.

All shops and business establishments that are operating from 7 am to 7 pm must ensure that their customers must not group together and must stand six feet apart. At any given point of time, not more than 5 persons must enter a particular shop. Movement of people has been restricted from 7 pm to 7 am except for medical reasons and essential service supply.

All shops must down shutters at 7 pm and Sunday is a closed day for all shops and businesses as per the State Government order. Only medical shops will be allowed to open on Sundays till May 31.

Masks are mandatory for all shopkeepers and customers. Those not wearing masks will have to be sent back by shopkeepers. Cleanliness must be maintained even in markets and social distancing is a must. People can come out of their houses to purchase essential commodities and avail essential services from 7 am to 7 pm. They can come out for works that are exempted in the Government order.

The above order is not applicable for emergency medical services, goods transportation vehicles, private vehicles with pass providing essential services, Govt. vehicles / vehicles of Government employees on duty, HOPCOMS, ration, home delivery of food items, kitchen services and agricultural activities.

Southern Star Hotel
shuts operations in Mysuru

Mysuru, May 19 (BCT)- Mysuru's iconic Hotel Southern Star on Vinobha Road has shut its operations from today due to COVID-19 global pandemic.

In a signed notice sent to staff dated May 19 (today), the Hotel General Manager has stated that due to Coronavirus epidemic and the lockdown, business has come to a standstill and as such the Southern Star management has decided to close down the Hotel by terminating all the employees and staff, numbering over 80.

"The global crisis has affected hotels badly and the situation will continue indefinitely even after the lockdown is lifted. The management will settle all the dues, including termination compensation to all employees as per rules," stated the notice put on the Hotel notice board.

Southern Star has been a landmark in Mysuru for over 40 years and the unit is owned and operated by Indra Hotel (Mysore).

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, Hotel owner H.R.B. Jairaj said, "The hospitality sector is the worst hit and the situation will not ease out anytime soon. Even the Government is not in a position to help. The hotel industry has been crippled by the virus and even if we continue operations, there are a lot of restrictions and impractical protocols to follow to curb the spread of virus. In such a situation we are deeply pained to close operations."

Meanwhile, the Chief Financial Officer Ganesh cited an observation made by the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India that, over 70 percent of hotels and restaurants in India are staring at closure within the next 30 to 45 days due to COVID pandemic.

(See HOTEL on page 6)

No pass needed from today for inter-district travel: SP

Ryshyanth

Mysuru, May 19 (RK&BCT)- Inter-district travel from 7 am to 7 pm will not require pass from May 19 (today) except for Containment Zones. Travellers will only have to produce their identity cards at check-posts, Mysuru Superintendent of Police (SP) C.B. Ryshyanth confirmed.

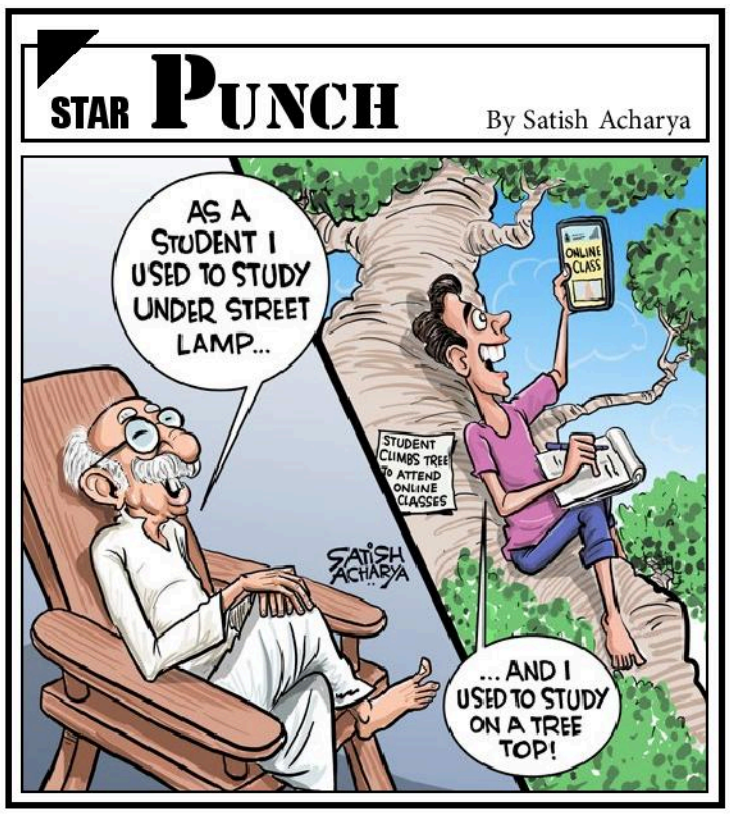
As per the Government's latest order, the Seva Sindhu portal link to apply for inter-district pass has been disabled. "This service is temporarily disabled as per the instructions of Government of Karnataka," reads the portal link.

Anechowkur Gate in Kodagu opens for private vehicles

However, the check-posts established at the entry and exit points of the district will continue to check the passengers. "Thermal screening will continue at check-posts and the personnel posted there will record travel details. But they will not check for passes," DCP (Law and Order) Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda told *Star of Mysore*.

Police pass will be mandatory for travel between districts during night time, except for essential services, said the Government order.

In another development today, the Anechowkur Gate, the entry point to Kodagu from Mysuru, was opened up for private vehicles. Till now, to and fro Mysuru and Kodagu there was only one entry and exit point at Koppa near Kushalnagar and the Anechowkur Gate was only meant for the movement of essential commodities. Now private vehicles will be allowed but with strict checking and thermal screening.


STAR PUNCH
By Satish Acharya
AS A STUDENT I USED TO STUDY UNDER STREET LAMP...
ONLINE CLASS
STUDENT CLIMBS TREE TO ATTEND ONLINE CLASSES
SATISH ACHARYA
...AND I USED TO STUDY ON A TREE TOP!

Limited Mofussil & City Bus service begins

Pic. 1: ***A city bus being disinfected before journey.*** *Pic. 2:* ***Thermal screening of a passenger at city bus stand today.*** *Pic. 3:* ***Social distance maintained inside city bus.***

- **KSRTC buses operated only from 7 am to 7 pm on all days except Sundays**
- **Private buses off the roads citing losses**

Mysuru, May 19 (RK&DM)- With the State Government on Monday easing lockdown regulations, the City and Mofussil KSRTC buses resumed operations today, albeit on a limited scale, after a 55-day hiatus due to COVID-19 induced lockdown.

The KSRTC had suspended all bus services on Mar.25. Now, the State-run Transport Corporations (KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and NEKRTC) decided to operate buses from today. However, there will be no buses on Sundays until further notice.

Accordingly, city buses operated from the city bus stand and mofussil services from the KSRTC Sub-urban bus stand as before, at 7 this morning, in compliance with the Govt. order.

A total of 36 buses to destinations such as Bengaluru, Shivamogga, Chamarajanagar, Tumakuru and Mangaluru began their journey from the Sub-urban bus stand from 7 am till noon, with most of them for Bengaluru.

KSRTC Mysuru Rural Divisional Controller R. Ashok Kumar told 'Star of Mysore' this morning that buses will be operated only from 7 am to 7 pm on all days except Sunday.

Long distance buses to places such as Dharwad, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi and Raichur are not being operated for now due to the time constraint, as buses cannot travel beyond 7 pm. On the first day today, there was a big demand for buses to Bengaluru, to which the last bus will leave the city at 4 pm, he said.

"Only a maximum of 30 passengers are allowed to travel in a bus in keeping with social distancing norms. Also, all passengers are required to stand in queues only on yellow square box markings which are drawn at all the platforms. Besides, passengers are thermally screened before they board the buses and it is mandatory for all passengers to wear face masks. Also use of hand sanitisers is a must before boarding. Apart from Bengaluru, buses also plied to Shivamogga, Mangaluru, Chamarajanagar, Hassan etc., which require less than seven hours of journey", he said and clarified that there is no change in fares.

Mysuru City Divisional Controller S.P. Nagaraj said that city buses have started plying on all routes from 7 am and the buses will be operated till 7 pm. A total of 69 city buses operated till noon and the response is not found to be that satisfactory. However, the response is expected to pick up in a couple of days, once people start treading out of their homes, he said.

"The buses are operated in keeping with social distancing and other travel norms specified by the Transport Department," he pointed out and added that city buses will ply on all days barring Sundays.

However, private buses are off the roads citing losses due to travel restrictions. Mysuru District Private Bus Owners Association Secretary Vajregoda said that although the Government has permitted operation of private buses too, the bus owners will suffer losses due to the cap (maximum of 30 passengers in a bus) on passengers. As such, the Association has decided not to ply buses on any routes for now, he said.

Long queue of passengers at Sub-urban bus stand.

A passenger sanitising her hand at Sub-urban bus stand Health Kiosk.

City hotels to continue parcel service

Mysuru, May 19 (RK&DM)- Following an assurance from Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa today, the Karnataka Hotel Owners Association, which had threatened to stop providing food parcel service over being refused permission for full scale operations, has decided to continue with the parcel service.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this afternoon, Mysuru City Hotel Owners Association President C. Narayanagowda said that the State Association on Monday had said that hotels would stop delivering parcel services to customers from May 20. This morning, Karnataka Hotel Owners Association President B. Chandrashekar Hebbar met Chief Minister Yediyurappa in Bengaluru to discuss the issue, during which the CM has assured of a positive response in three days on permitting full scale operations.

Following the assurance given by the Chief Minister, the Karnataka Hotel Owners Association has decided to continue parcel service for now and Hebbar has sent a message in this regard to him, Narayanagowda said.

Subsequent to the message, the Mysuru Hotel Owners will continue parcel service as usual, he added.

State Govt. Offices

record over 90 percent staff attendance in city

Mysuru, May 19 (RKB&DM)- In the wake of the Government issuing a circular asking all its employees to return to work from May 19, almost all State Government Offices in the city recorded over 90 percent staff attendance today.

The Taluk Office, MCC, MUDA, RDPR, Agriculture and all other Government, Boards and Corporations and quasi-Government Offices saw an average staff attendance.

Most Government Departments, barring essential ones, were closed after the Union Government announced nationwide COVID-19 lockdown in the last week of March. Later early this month, the Government issued a circular asking a certain percentage of employees in all Departments to attend Office.

Now, following the easing of lockdown 4.0 curbs in accordance with the Centre's guidelines, the State Chief Secretary T.M. Vijayabhaskar yesterday (May 18) issued a circular asking all Government employees (100 percent) belonging to all cadres (Group A, B, C and D) serving in all Departments, Boards and Corporations, quasi-Government bodies and other Government Offices to return to work.

Accordingly, today most of the employees, barring a few, returned to work. However, several offices witnessed less number of public when compared to earlier days.

VOICE OF THE READER

Demolition of heritage buildings will ring death knell for India's treasured monuments

Sir,

I read with dismay the news that politicians are asking the Chief Minister for funds to demolish and re-construct Devaraja Market and Lansdowne Building while we are all in the midst of this most terrible global pandemic (*SOM* dated May 17).

Politicians worldwide should be concentrating on the Coronavirus epidemic, not on asking for funds to demolish and reconstruct heritage buildings.

I do not have any solutions to this standoff between heritage conservation and development but here's a thought:

Will every "improvement" to India's infrastructure require us to give up more and more heritage buildings?

The preservation of Devaraja Market and Lansdowne Building must be on all our minds. There will be no chance to renovate or to save this historic site once it's gone. And we can never be certain what will be valued in the future. This reality brings to light the importance of locating and saving buildings of historic significance — because once a piece of history is destroyed, it is lost forever.

The local Governments in India seem to be on a bulldozing-spree, targeting all historic buildings. This has happened because there's little protection given to heritage buildings in India. All this will do is ring the death knell for many of India's treasured monuments.

We have to and must preserve the monuments and showcase them to the next generation. The contributions and achievements of our ancestors worldwide are important. We need to care to make the past the present. COVID-19 has brought the best and the worst out in a society that we can see all around the world.

I urge the Chief Minster to kindly put on hold all demolition, expansion rebuilding plans in the whole of Karnataka while we deal with this worldwide terrible pandemic.

— Alyia Phelps-Gardiner-Krumbiegel, GHK Foundation, Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel's Great-Grand-Daughter
UK
18.5.2020

Govt. nod for long-standing demand of Resident Doctors

Gives nearly 40 percent hike in stipend

Mysuru, May 19 (PM &BNR)- The long-standing demand of Resident Doctors, Post-Graduate students and House Surgeons in the State, many of whom are fighting the COVID-19 pandemic as frontline warriors, for a hike in their monthly stipend has finally been met with the State Government issuing an order in this regard dated May 16, 2020.

File photo of Resident doctors on black band protest in city recently.

On February 26, members of the Karnataka Resident Doctors' Association met Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar regarding their demand, following which the Minister instructed the Department to prepare a detailed proposal. The hike was announced after Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa approved it.

The confirmation to the stipend hike was made by the Medical Education Minister who stated that a long-standing demand of the frontline workers was being met.

According to a Government order in this regard, the stipend for House Residents has been increased to Rs.30,000 from existing Rs.20,000, for first year PG students – Rs. 45,000 (from Rs.30,000), for second year students - Rs.50,000 (from Rs.35,000) and for third year students - Rs.55,000 (from Rs. 40,000). Also, those pursuing first year of super-speciality courses will now get Rs. 55,000 (from Rs. 40,000), second year - Rs. 60,000 (from Rs. 45,000) and third year - Rs. 65,000 (from Rs. 50,000).

Senior residents, who are performing compulsory Government service, will also get a revised stipend of Rs. 60,000 (from Rs. 45,000), while fellowship students will get Rs. 60,000 (from Rs 30,000).

The annual cost of the student stipend would be Rs. 256 crore, he said. The Government has also brought the remuneration of Medical College staff on par with the 7th Pay Commission, increasing their overall salaries.

The decision is pursuant to the series of protests observed by the medicos recently demanding pay hike citing that the State has the highest fees yet the lowest stipend. The stipends had been last revised in 2015, and doctors complained that their stipends were far lower than their counterparts in other States.

It may be recalled here that Resident Doctors (MD/ MS students), working at K.R., Cheluvamba and PKTB Hospitals, attached to Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) and COVID Hospital, were seen sporting a black band around their arms expressing support to the State-wide protest call given by Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors on May 5 and 6.

MMC&RI RDA (Resident Doctors Association) Vice-President Dr. D.N. Puneeth, speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, said that the Government's decision had given them great relief. "With the revision of stipend, we will be getting nearly 40% hike. Our Association had requested for a hike in the stipend during February. However, though the economic condition is bad with Coronavirus and lockdown effect, the Government has responded to our cries, so we are happy and heartfully thank the State Govt. and Minister Dr. Sudhakar in particular," he added.

He further said that the Resident Doctors Association, at National level, had also put forth a proposal to the Central Government to consider equal stipend to all PG students at all the Government Medical Colleges under 'Central Residency Scheme' as the work and stress is same for everyone; must wait and see if the Government responds positively for that too.

CBSE time-table for remaining Class 10 and 12 exams

New Delhi, May 19- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Monday released the time-table for the pending Class 10 and 12 Board exams, which will now be conducted between July 1 and 15. The exams were postponed due to lockdown.

The Class 10 Board Exams are pending only in North East Delhi.

"The Class 10 exams will be staggered on four dates, starting July 1. The first paper will be of Social Sciences, while the next day students will be required to appear for Science exam," Sanyam Bhardwaj, the Controller of Examination, CBSE said.

Time-Table - Class 12

July 1:	Home Science
July 2:	Hindi Elective and Hindi Core
July 3:	Physics (North East Delhi)
July 4:	Accountancy (North East Delhi)
July 6:	Chemistry (North East Delhi)
July 7:	Informatics Prac. (New and Old), Computer Science (New and Old) and Information Tech
July 8:	English Elective-N, English Elective-C and English Core (North East Delhi)
July 9:	Business Studies
July 10:	Biotechnology
July 11:	Geography
July 13:	Sociology
July 14:	Political Science (North East Delhi)
July 15:	Mathematics, Economics, History and Biology (North East Delhi)

Time-Table - Class 10 (North East Delhi Only)

July 1:	Social Science
July 2:	Science-Theory and Science - Without Practical
July 10:	Hindi Course-A and Hindi Course-B
July 15:	English Communicative and English Language & LIT

State to conduct SSLC exams from June 25 to July 4

Bengaluru, May 19 (KMS)- The SSLC exams, which were postponed since nationwide lockdown was announced on Mar.24, will now be conducted from June 25 to July 4. Also, the II PUC English exam which was pending to be conducted will now be held on June 18.

Announcing this at a press meet yesterday, Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar said that English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science will be held with a day break between each exam.

"The SSLC exams were earlier scheduled to be held between Mar.27 and Apr.9 and PUC English exam was supposed to be held on Mar.23. Due to Corona outbreak, all the exams were postponed and now after consulting with education experts and elders, we have decided to conduct these exams," he said adding that more classrooms will be used to conduct exams keeping in mind the social-distancing norms.

II PUC English exam on June 18

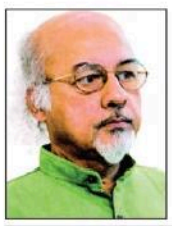
"There are a total of 2,879 exam centres in the State where a total of 43,720 class rooms are being used to conduct exams. This year, over 8.40 lakh students are taking exams in the State and all the precautionary measures in view of pandemic as suggested by the Health Department will be in place," he said.

Free masks to students

"As wearing mask is made mandatory, Bharat Scouts & Guides will be providing free masks to all the students writing exams. Also, Ramakrishna Mission, Bannerghatta, will provide 2 lakh masks. We are making sure that each student gets two masks. Apart from that, a Private Company has come forward to provide sanitisers to all the exam centres. Thermal Screening is also made compulsory at all exam centres and separate room will be arranged if any student is found ill," said the Minister.

He further said that revision classes are also being broadcast on Chandana Channel for SSLC students. "For evaluation of exam papers, minimum one month time is required and its time-table will be announced soon," he added.

Criticism cannot be sedition



Point of VIEW

T.J.S. George

Two things worry me. Deeply. Feeling patriotic, I sat glued to the television set for the Prime Minister's "address to the nation." After two minutes I felt hungry and moved to the dining table. Like me the majority of people in the South must have lost interest in the Hindi prabhashan. I don't feel good about my lack of interest in Hindi. But I don't feel guilty either.

The second thing that sent me off to the dining table was the nothing-new feeling created by the Prime Ministerial message. Economic package. Rebuilding. Demand-Supply chakra. Self-reliance. Rs. 20 lakh crore for self-reliant India. Of course, if even a few of the promises are fulfilled, it will be progress. But the fact remains that we have lived for 70 years on slogans, the last six of them on well-phrased slogans well delivered. They didn't click because urgent issues, like massive movement of migrant labour, were ignored.

But one thing is new, and disturbing. Sedition law is being used to suppress the common democratic right of criticism. Patel, a local journalist in Gujarat, was booked for sedition when he uploaded a report about Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. It was a routine report saying that there were problems between the Chief Minister and the BJP High Command, the kind of report that appears about many State leaderships in many forums. If the report was incorrect, both the Chief Minister and the BJP High Command could have publicly said so and the media would have been obliged to publish the denial.

But that is not what the Rupani Government did. It ensured that the Ahmedabad Police crime branch filed an FIR against Patel under the Sedition Act. The Police Chief perhaps saw the farcical nature of the action and said: "As a precautionary measure in view of the Coronavirus pandemic, Patel has been detained, not arrested, and sent to SVP Hospital for COVID treatment." Thus the Police turned the sedition story into a Corona story.

Sedition means inciting people to rebel against the State. In Indian democratic system, Governments have always been criticised by political opponents and by media. This was never interpreted as rebellion against the State. Therefore, using the Sedition Act to prevent legitimate give-and-take in a democracy is a cheap trick. It won't work. BJP and Congress, CPM and Trinamool, all must face democracy's challenges; none can get refuge behind sedition laws.

Strangely, many of our elected leaders seem to believe that, once elected, they are above the checks and balances of democracy. Such leaders resort to sedition laws at the slightest provocation. Parliamentary criticism of a Government or a Minister is the essence of democracy. To say that such criticism is sedition amounting to rebellion against the State is nonsense.

That the Rupani Government in Gujarat resorted to nonsensical procedures to silence critics is ironical. Gujarat has the worst morbidity rate in the country. The first COVID cases were confirmed in Gujarat. It remains the worst affected State after Maharashtra. Gujarat became known for announcing precipitate policies without giving people sufficient notice. People were banned from leaving their homes; shops were closed for a week.

Ahmedabad is notorious for localities crammed with people Dharavi-style. In fact it is worse because, unlike in Dharavi, religion plays a role in separating one over-crammed sector from another. Large numbers of men and women sharing one bathroom is scary enough. Imagine the complications if the scarce bathrooms are segregated religion-wise as well. Many years of rule by BJP stalwarts have not succeeded in improving the situation in Gujarat and in its capital in particular.

British bureaucratic legalese is the hallmark of the sedition law that India still follows. It says that "whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite, disaffection towards the Government, shall be punished..." A century and a half have passed since the original enactment. But the language — and the mentality — remain unchanged.

The Prime Minister deflects all criticism by giving his oratory full play. Abraham Lincoln was no orator. He delivered the Gettysburg Address in a most unimpressive style. But it changed the course of history. Infosys Founder N.R. Narayana Murthy recently made a relevant comment. "India cannot continue in this situation for long. At some point deaths due to hunger will outweigh deaths due to Corona. We must facilitate return to work by the able-bodied while protecting the vulnerable."

Wisdom, not oratory.

Corona volunteers demonstrate use of Tippy Tap to wash hands

Mysuru, May 19 (RK&KS)- In a bid to create awareness on the importance of washing hands to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the volunteers serving as Corona Warriors demonstrated the use of Tippy Tap to wash hands without touching the tap.

Tippy Tap is a hands-free device for hand washing that is especially designed for rural areas where there is no running water. It is operated by a foot lever and thus reduces the chance for the transmission of pathogens as the user only touches a bar of soap suspended by a string.

Adequate hand washing with the Tippy Tap requires very less water as compared to using a cup or mug. Additionally, used gray water can be recycled for watering plants. Tippy Tap can be made with locally-sourced materials at virtually no cost.

A Corona volunteer seen demonstrating the use of Tippy Tap in city yesterday as Information and Public Relations Department Assistant Director R. Raju, District Medical Education Officer of the Health Department Dr. Prakash and others look on.

Following the announcement of the lockdown, Corona Warriors teams consisting of 70 members with 15 persons in one team were formed by the Department of Information and Public Relations and the Labour Department to create awareness on the precautions to be taken. These teams have been moving around in the district including city and rural places conducting awareness programmes since two months.

Yesterday, the Corona Warriors team demonstrated the use of Tippy Tap to wash hands to prevent the use of public taps at the Department of Information and Public Relations premises near Dasappa Circle-Dhanvanthri Road Junction.

The basic set of required materials includes several sticks, string, soap and a container for the water. Two sticks of 4 ft. in height are installed to the ground about 4 ft. apart and another stick in tied horizontally to the two sticks to resemble one side on a box.

A plastic container is hung in the middle of the horizontal stick and a small hole is made to the front portion of the plastic can from where water is filled. A string is attached to the plastic can and the other end of the string is attached to a small stick which acts like a lever that is placed on the ground to the right side.

All one has to do is to press the lever with the right foot and the plastic can containing water bends down releasing small quantity of water to wet the hands. Apply soap which is tied to a string and after applying the soap on both hands, press the lever with the foot again and water pours out of the plastic can to wash the hands.

The volunteers said that these Tippy Taps could be placed near schools and colleges, public places and the people could wash their hands without touching the tap or the plastic can and the used water could be used to water plants.

District Medical Education Officer of the Health Department Dr. Prakash, Department of Information and Public Relations Assistant Director R. Raju and others were present.

Spread of COVID cases from Jubilant: Former MP demands CBI probe

Former MP R. Dhruvanarayan addressing a press meet in city this morning as former MLA Kalale Keshavamurthy, District Congress President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar, former MyLAC Chairman H.A. Venkatesh and others look on.

Mysuru, May 19 (PM&KS)- Former Chamarajanagar MP R. Dhruvanarayan has demanded CBI probe into the spread of COVID-19 positive cases from Jubilant Company in Nanjangud.

Addressing a press meet at Jaladarshini Guest House on Hunsur Road here this morning, Dhruvanarayan said he had information that Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries Jagadish Shettar and Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar had held a meeting where it was decided to ask Jubilant Company to distribute 50,000 grocery kits to villagers and also adopt 10 villages and added that the State Government was lured by false promises made by Jubilant.

Pointing out that he had demanded the probe report of IAS Officer Harsha Gupta, who was appointed as a Special Officer, be made public, the former MP said that previous District Minister V. Somanna had stated that summons were issued to the Managing Director of Jubilant Company but nothing has happened after that.

Stating that there was a change in District Minister all of a sudden, raising doubts, the former MP accused the Central and State Governments of following dual mode and accused both the Governments of receiving huge kickbacks from Jubilant. Hence, Dhruvanarayan has demanded a thorough CBI probe.

City Congress President R. Murthy, District President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar, former Nanjangud MLA Kalale Keshavamurthy, former MyLAC Chairman H.A. Venkatesh and others were present.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Aloysius D'Mello passes away in city

He was the Founder of St. Joseph's School in Mandya

Rev. Fr. Joseph D'Mello

Mysuru, May 19- Rev. Fr. Joseph Aloysius D'Mello (72), a priest of the Diocese of Mysore, passed away in the early hours today (May 19). He was sick for the last few years and since the last five months was under medical treatment in St. Joseph's Hospital, Mysuru.

Profile: Fr. Joseph D'Mello was born in Kedamullur village, Virajpet Taluk, Kodagu district, on Feb.20, 1947 to Rozario D'Mello and Mary Menezes, the third child among six children. He is survived by three elder sisters and a younger brother (Advocate Davis D'Mello) and sister.

After completing his school studies in Virajpet, he joined St. Mary's Minor Seminary later, completed his Priestly studies at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore. He was ordained Priest for the Diocese of Mysore on April 4, 1973 at St. Anne's Church, Virajpet, by Rt. Rev. Dr. Mathias Fernandes, the then Bishop of Mysore.

He has served as Assistant Parish Priest at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Parish Priest at Sacred Heart Church, Vontikoppal, St. Joseph's Church, Mandya, Our Lady of Velangani Church, Hanur, St. Joseph's Cathedral, Mysore, Holy Family Church, Hinkal and Infant Jesus Church, Nanjangud. He was also the Secretary of Mysore Diocesan Educational Society (MDES) between 1989 and 1996.

His contribution to the field of education has been great. He founded St. Joseph's School at Mandya, improved the educational institutions at Hanur and St. Philomena's institutions at St. Joseph's Cathedral. As the Secretary of MDES, he supported many rural educational institutions in the Diocese of Mysore.

Soft spoken and humane, Fr. Joseph D'Mello was an excellent musician and mastered Gregorian Music. He had the honour of being the General Choir Master at St. Peter's Seminary. Since 2015 he has been residing at Prashantha Nilaya, retired Priests Home in Mysuru.

Funeral mass: Respecting the restrictions laid by the Government during the present lockdown, the funeral mass was held at Prashantha Nilaya by the two Bishops, Curia members, inmates of Priests' Home and a few close relatives at 11.30 am. His body was interred at the Catholic Cemetery in Gandhinagar at 12.30 pm today.

Condoled: Most Rev. Dr. K.A. William, Bishop of Mysore, Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Antony Vazhapilly, the priests and religious of the Diocese of Mysore have condoled his death.

Attempt to close down Mahila Santhvana Kendras and Mathrushri Scheme

KPCC Women's Wing Chief lashes out at State Govt.

KPCC Women's Wing President Dr. Pushpa Amarnath addressing the press meet at the Congress Office in city yesterday as others look on.

Mysuru, May 19 (PM&KS)- Condemning the attempts made by the State Government to close down Mahila Santhvana Kendras and stopping of Mathrushri Scheme, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) Women's Wing President Dr. Pushpa Amarnath has alleged that the present BJP State Government is not concerned about the welfare of women and children.

Addressing a press meet at the Congress Office near City Railway Station yesterday, Dr. Pushpa said that the State BJP Government was hell bent to close down the Santhvana Kendra, which is aimed at protecting women and also stopping of Mathrushri Scheme, aimed at providing nutritious food to mothers and children.

Pointing out that the APMC Act which is to be amended was not farmer-friendly, she said that the farmers and the poor suffered more due to the unplanned lockdown and added that the new projects and schemes brought out by the Centre was not new but were the schemes of the then UPA Government with new names. She observed that it was the right time for the Centre to bring the black money from the Swiss Bank and waive off loans taken by farmers and Women Self Help Groups.

Dr. Pushpa said that the special package of Rs. 20 lakh cr. announced by PM Modi was in reality Rs. 60,000 cr. and the rest were old schemes that have been included in the special package.

Grocery kits distributed

Dr. Pushpa Amarnath distributed grocery kits, sanitary pads and face masks to 100 Congress activists on the occasion.

Congress leader K. Harishgowda and former MCDCC Bank President Chandrashekar donated Rs. 1 lakh each for KPCC Corona Relief Fund. The cheques were handed over to City Congress President R. Murthy.

District Congress President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar, former Mayor Pushpalatha Chikkanna, former Deputy Mayor Pushpavalli and others were present.

Rider killed as car rams into bike

Praveen

Nanjangud, May 19 (RS&KS)- A 29-year-old youth, who was on his way home after finishing his work, was killed on the spot when a speeding car rammed into the bike he was riding at the Mallanamoole Mutt turning on Nanjangud-Ooty Highway last evening.

The deceased is Praveen, son of former City Council Members K.S. Mahesh and Sudha Mahesh couple and a resident of Teachers' Colony in Nanjangud.

According to Traffic Police, Praveen, an employee of a private firm at Tandavapura Industrial Area in the taluk, was returning home on his Royal Enfield bike (KA-09-HK-7373) and when he neared the Mallanamoole Mutt turning, a speeding Swift Dzire car (KA-09-MD-5216) which came behind rammed into the bike resulting in Praveen suffering serious head injuries. He breathed his last on the spot.

Traffic Sub-Inspector Jayalakshmi and staff, who rushed to the spot, conducted mahazar, shifted the body to the Taluk Hospital mortuary for post-mortem and registered a case. The Police have also launched a hunt to nab the driver of the car, who had fled from the spot leaving the car behind.

Following lockdown, Praveen, who had stayed at his home for nearly two months, had gone to work yesterday after the lockdown was relaxed. As the news of Praveen's death spread, hundreds of people thronged the hospital to mourn his tragic death.

Last rites of Praveen would be performed at the burial grounds on the banks of Kapila River today, according to family sources.

Mysuru only city in South India to get 5-star garbage-free rating

New Delhi, May 19 (BCT)- Amidst COVID pandemic, here is some good news. Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri this morning announced the results of garbage free-star rating for Indian cities.

He said that Mysuru in Karnataka, Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh, Rajkot in Gujarat, Indore in Madhya Pradesh and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra have got a five-star rating. Interestingly, Mysuru is the only city in South India to make it to the list and it is placed in the fourth place after Ambikapur, Rajkot and Surat. Mysuru has secured this distinction for the second consecutive time.

Puri extended the wishes to the cities who got a five-star rating and said it came at a time when the entire world, including India, are reeling under the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was the intention of my senior colleagues and others to declare the result of star rating of garbage-free cities much earlier but we decided to postpone because we wanted at least some degree of opening to take place and we thought the timing is correct," Puri said.

Star rating of garbage free cities is an initiative to enable cities to gradually evolve into a model (7-star) city, with progressive improvements in their overall cleanliness. The star rating conditions are based on 25 key parameters across the solid waste management spectrum and has been designed to both help cities assess their progress while encouraging them to move towards a better rating thereby improving their cities' overall cleanliness and aesthetics.

The star rating is supported by a robust verification mechanism to ensure transparency and standardisation. Cities were required to carry out self-assessment and self-verification for achieving a certain star rating.

This self-declaration was further verified through an independent third-party agency for 1-star, 3-star, 5-star and 7-star garbage-free ratings. The 5-star rating is in appreciation of Mysuru City Corporation's (MCC) efforts to make the city garbage-free.

Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar has complimented the MCC for this achievement. MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde has thanked the health team and Pourakarmikas who worked hard to get the 5-star rating.

MCC Health Officer Dr. D.G. Nagaraju has thanked the support extended by citizens and voluntary organisations to achieve this recognition.

Southern Star Hotel

(Continued from page 1)

Ganesh then added saying, "Just last December and January we refurbished and redesigned two floors of the Hotel. We have borrowed huge bank loans and this pandemic has hit us hard, so we are not in a position to continue anymore."

"Our business runs on travellers. And tourists, both foreign and domestic, will not turn up unless a vaccine is found and the pandemic is eradicated. Even the Government has not provided us any stimulus package or any sort of relief so we are staring at a bleak future. Hence we have been forced to take this painful decision," said Jairaj.

Apart from this Jairaj said, "We are not getting support from any Government, be it State or even local. Mysuru City Corporation has increased tax by 15 percent and the Excise Department says we must pay up next year's excise tax this year and that also immediately. This being the situation, how can we run a hotel?" The Group owns hotels in Bengaluru and Hassan, which have also been closed and employees let go.

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39,500 students to write SSLC exams at 139 centres in Mysuru district

Mysuru, May 19 (SPN&RK)- Mysuru district is being readied with all necessary arrangements in place to conduct the SSLC exams from June 25 to July 4.

A total of 139 exam centres have been identified in the district which includes 73 Government High Schools, 31 Aided and 35 Unaided High Schools.

Chief Superintendents, 26 Dy. Chief Superintendents and 139 Custodians have been appointed for the exam duty.

This year a total of 36,847 students will be appearing for the SSLC exams as first timers.

There are a total of 660 High Schools in the district including 257 Government High Schools, 124 Aided and 279 unaided High Schools. All the teachers working there will be used for invigilation. It has been instructed to all BEOs to utilise the services of Primary School teachers wherever there is shortage of High School staff.

As social distancing is compulsory due to Corona pandemic, the number of students writing exams in each classroom will be restricted to 15 or 20.

A total of 39,500 students will be writing exams in the entire district which includes 2,653 private exam writers and repeaters from last year, said DDPI Dr. Panduranga speaking to *SOM*'

To contain the pandemic, it has been mandatory for students to wear masks and the masks will be issued for free under Public Partnership. Also, all the students will be thermal screened and provided with sanitisers before they enter exam halls.

For all these additional facilities, more rooms and teachers are required, hence, it has been decided to utilise Primary School building and services of Primary School teachers for the purpose, he added.

CCTV cameras have been installed at Chief Superintendent's Room and corridors of all the 139 exam centres in the district and there is no sensitive exam centres in Mysuru, he added.

Migrant students

It has been orally announced that as students of different districts and taluks have returned to their hometowns due to lockdown, such students will be allowed to take the exams from nearby centres. However, there is no official communication in this regard as yet and decision in this regard cannot be taken at the district-level, clarified the DDPI.

Obituary

Lionel Fleury

Mysuru, May 19- Lionel Fleury

(77), retired Technician at MNPM in Belagola and a resident of Kesare 3rd Stage, passed away yesterday (May 18) in city.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral service was held at 3 pm at the Catholic Cemetery in Gandhinagar followed by the burial today (May 19), according to family sources.

COVID-19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	5,475
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,773
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	701
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	1
Total samples tested	:	6,194
Samples found negative	:	6,103
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	91
Persons cured / discharged	:	90
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	160
Persons cured / discharged	:	21
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	1,395
Persons cured / discharged	:	543
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	40
Total active cases in India	:	58,802
Persons cured / discharged	:	39,173
Death toll so far in India	:	3,163

(Note: Mysuru figures as on May 18. Media bulletin for May 19 not available)

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